

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 ACDA-10 TRSE-00  
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-----311828Z 008732 /46

P R 311718Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 506  
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS MADRID 4205

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: MASS, SP. MR. MO  
SUBJECT: SPANISH ARMS TO MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA- THE "WASHINGTON POST"  
"  
REPORT

1. THE REPORT ON SPANISH ARMS SHIPMENTS TO MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WHICH APPARENTLY APPEARED IN THE MAY 26 EDITION OF THE "WASHINGTON POST" (NOT YET SEEN HERE) HAS DRAWN A DENIAL FROM OFFICIAL SPANISH SOURCES.

2. SUMMARIES OF THE STORY WHICH APPEARED HERE SUGGESTED ATRIBUTION TO OFFICIAL SPANISH SOURCES OF REPORTS THAT SPAIN WAS SELLING CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF LIGHT ARMAMENTS TO MOROCCO AND MEURITANIA AND WAS TRAINING MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN OFFICERS IN DESERT ANTIGUERRILLA TACTICS AND IN THE USE OF THESE SPANISH ARMS. ACCORDING TO THESE SUMMARIES, ACOCA ALSO SUGGESTED, INTER ALIA, THAT THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION PERMITS US MILITARY USE OF THE CANARIES AND THAT SPAIN HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME A CENTER OF CLANDESTINE ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA.

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3. THE MADRID PAPERS OF MAY 29 CARRY REPORTS THAT SPANISH GOVT SOURCES HAVE TOLD THE OFFICIAL SPANISH NEWS AGENCY "CIFRA" THAT SUCH STORIS DO NOT CORRESPOND TO REALITY. THE SPANISH POSITION ON THE SAHARA, THESE UNANMED SOURCES SAID, WAS MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR IN THE COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE OCCASION OF THETEM NATION OF THE SPANISH PRESENCE IN

THE SAHARA IN FEBRUARY 1976. FURTHER SPAIN HAS NO MILITARY COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES AND THE VERY LIMITED AND OCCASIONAL SUPPLY OF MILITARY MATERIAL DOES NOT SIGNIFY ANY CHANGE IN ATTITUDE. ARMS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED OCCASIONALLY AND IN LIMITED QUANTITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CUSTOMARY COMMERCIAL RELATIONS MAINTAINED WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND ARE NOT TO BE CONSIDERED THE EXPRESSION OF AN ALLIANCE OR OF A BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES IN THE AREA.

4. THE CIFRA REPORT GOES ON TO ATTRIBUTE TO THESE OFFICIAL SOURCES THE STATEMENT THAT THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION SPECIFICALLY LISTS THOSE MILITARY FACILITIES WHICH THE US MAY USE IN SPAIN AND NONE OF THESE ARE IN THE CANARIES. MOREOVER THE "SPANISH GOVT" CATEGORICALLY REITERATES THE ABSENCE OF ANY FOREIGN BASES OR MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE CANARIES.

5. WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH AFRICA, THESE SOURCES ADDED THAT SPANISH POLICY IS BASED ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE US CHARTER AND ON THE APPLICABLE UN RESOLUTIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE RELATING TO DECOLONIZATION, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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